

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-60 (Cancelled).

61. (New) In a method of treating plant matter or a foodstuff, during at least one of storage, distribution and marketing, comprising contacting said plant matter or foodstuff with a hydrogen peroxide solution, the improvement wherein

said hydrogen peroxide solution is at a pH of 1-4, contains a silver salt in the amount of 50 ppb to 1000 ppm and phosphoric acid, and is [free of hydrogen peroxide stabilizers.

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62. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide in said hydrogen solution is 0.1-15%.

63. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said silver salt is silver nitrate.

64. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter or foodstuff comprises potatoes.

65. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter or foodstuff comprises wheat.

66. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter or foodstuff comprises maize.

67. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter or foodstuff comprises grains.

68. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter or foodstuff comprises a solanaceous plant.

69. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said treating comprises dipping said plant matter or foodstuff into said hydrogen peroxide solution.

70. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said treating comprises spraying said plant matter or foodstuff with said hydrogen peroxide solution.

71. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said treating comprises fogging said plant matter or foodstuff with said hydrogen peroxide solution.

72. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein said fogging comprises an air to liquid volume ratio of between 300:1 and 1200:1.

73. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein said fogging comprises an air to liquid volume ratio of between 500:1 and 700:1.

74. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter is one subject to premature sprouting, and wherein said contacting comprises an amount sufficient of said hydrogen peroxide solution to inhibit premature sprouting.

75. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter is one subject to premature rooting, and wherein said contacting comprises an amount sufficient of said hydrogen peroxide solution to inhibit premature rooting.

76. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said plant matter is one subject to premature black-heart formation, and wherein said contacting comprises an amount sufficient of said hydrogen peroxide solution to inhibit premature black-heart formation.

77. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said treatment is applied intermittently with intervals of several weeks therebetween.

78. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said treatment is followed by a subsequent treatment with said hydrogen peroxide solution.

79. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said contacting is carried out by spraying said solution with a fogger-sprayer that produces micro droplets.

80. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said silver salt is silver nitrate and said plant matter or foodstuff comprises wheat, maize or solanaceous plant.

81. (New) A method of treating plant matter prior to planting or during growing, comprising:

contacting said plant matter prior to planting or during growing with a hydrogen peroxide solution wherein:

said hydrogen peroxide solution is at a pH of 1-4, contains a silver salt in the amount of 50 ppb to 1000 ppm and phosphoric acid, and is free of hydrogen peroxide stabilizers.]

82. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein said plant matter is one subject to premature germination, and wherein said contacting comprises an amount sufficient of said hydrogen peroxide solution to inhibit premature germination.

83. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein said plant matter is one subject to premature blossoming, and wherein said contacting comprises an amount sufficient of said hydrogen peroxide solution to inhibit premature blossoming.
